

LifeCell moves up to become India's First & only AABB Accredited Stem Cell Bank for Umbilical Cord Tissue banking

~ Sets high industry benchmarks for stem cell preservation ~

Chennai, January 12, 2012: LifeCell, the pioneers in Umbilical cord blood & cord tissue stem cell bank has been awarded the most prestigious AABB Accreditation for cord tissue banking. AABB (American Association of Blood Banks) is an international non-profit body dedicated to developing the highest standards in blood and cord blood banking, transfusion medicine and cellular therapy. This accreditation has been granted following an intensive on-site assessment by AABB assessors and establishes that the level of medical, technical and administrative performance within the facility is in accordance with the AABB standards or exceeds those set by AABB.

With this achievement, **LifeCell becomes the first and only stem cell bank to possess AABB Accreditation for both cord blood and cord tissue preservation.** It is also noteworthy to mention that **LifeCell is one amongst the few companies in the World to receive AABB accreditation for Somatic Activity (Cord Tissue)** which positions LifeCell as a global leader in stem cell preservation.

The accreditation assessment includes stem cell processing, cryo-preservation records, document control, inspection and testing, training of lab technicians, sample identification, traceability and validation of cord tissue preservation to quality compliances. During this audit, it was determined that LifeCell's level of medical, technical and administrative performance met the standards set by the AABB.

Mr. Mayur Abhaya, Executive Director, LifeCell said, *"It is a proud moment for us that LifeCell is the first & the only stem cell bank in India to possess AABB accreditation for both umbilical cord blood and cord tissue in India and this reinstates our commitment to quality. AABB accreditation is sought after by private and public blood banks globally as it demonstrates a commitment to advanced learning, continuous improvement and innovation to sustain the highest possible level of quality and safety."*

To facilitate such achievements LifeCell has made huge investments in their in-house R&D. This world-class R&D had made significant strides in researching cord tissue stem cells and the science & technology for this was completely built in-house by this team.

Parents banking their baby's umbilical cord blood stem cells with an AABB accredited bank can be assured that the blood sample has been qualified, collected, tested, processed, and stored as per internationally approved and recognised standards. Moreover this accreditation allows access to the banked cord tissue from any part of the world, when needed.

LifeCell was the first to launch cord tissue banking in the year 2009 and has been preserving cord tissue stem cells since then. Today LifeCell is the largest processor of cord tissue derived mesenchymal stem cells in the world.

*"LifeCell is committed to bring essential services of stem cell banking to India and had taken the lead by providing preservation of cord blood, cord tissue, menstrual blood and dental pulp stem banking. With these services, LifeCell has positioned itself as **World's first and only multi-service stem cell bank**" Mr Mayur adds with pride.*

About LifeCell International Pvt. Ltd: LifeCell is India's largest and most accredited stem cell bank with over 40,000 customers since inception in 2004, and has over 75 centres across India and abroad. LifeCell facilitates the cryogenic preservation of stem cells in technological collaboration with Cryo-Cell International Inc, USA - the world's first stem cell bank with more nearly 2 decades of expertise in stem cell banking. LifeCell is the first stem cell bank in India to be accredited by AABB (American Association of Blood Banks), College of American Pathologists (CAP) and NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories) for adopting their international standards. LifeCell has also been honored as one of India's most promising brand for 2011-2012 by 4P's Business and Marketing. LifeCell is also uniquely positioned as comprehensive stem cells solutions provider with a complete spectrum of services in stem cells through multi-service stem cell banking, R&D, clinical trials and stem cell therapy.

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